

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, The 361st Infantry Regiment of World War I and II (WWI and WWII) was organized on September 4, 1917, an element of the 91st Division and was formed into a Regimental Combat Team; and,

Whereas, The 361st Infantry Regimental Combat Team, on September 11, 1918, became the first regiment of the 91st Division to enter into combat in WWI, serving valiantly under treacherous conditions; and,

Whereas, The 361st Infantry Regiment is one of the rare few elements of the United States Army to have had a monument erected in its honor by a foreign government or town, and dedicated on June 2, 2002; and,

Whereas, The 361st Infantry Regiment, in WWI and WWII, distinguished itself under the most treacherous of battle conditions, walked further and fought on more rugged terrain, and was the only regiment to have served as a Regimental Combat Team in both World Wars; and,

Whereas, In 1961, former members of the 361st Infantry Regiment created the 361st Infantry Association, WWII, whose purpose it is to uphold the Constitution and Laws of the United States of America, encourage in all people the spirit of understanding that shall help guard against future wars, promote charitable activity directed to members or their survivors who may be in need, and preserve the memories of our military activities; and,

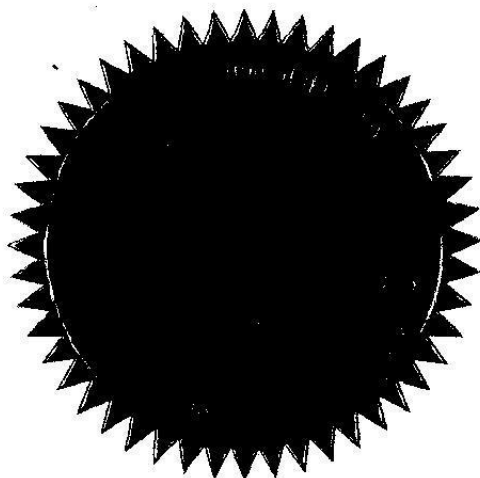
Whereas, The church at Livergnano, Italy, its bell tower, and the town were completely destroyed by our troops during The Battle for Hill 603, and after the war, the towns people recovered the pieces of the bells and had them recast and hung in a small wooden shed for many years; and,

Whereas, In 1992, the 361st Infantry Association, WWII, established a fund to assist in the construction of a permanent housing for the bells, and said bell house shall be dedicated in ceremonies to be held at St. John The Baptist Catholic Church, Livergnano, Italy, on Sunday, September 7, 2003, simultaneously with the 18th Reunion of the 361st Infantry Association, WWII, at Kenner, Louisiana, on September 4-7, 2003:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 7, 2003, as

361ST INFANTRY REGIMENT DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifteenth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State